



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Housing: Questions on Acreage (H-4) and Agricultural Sales (H-5)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES

- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to define “rural area,” a term used in sections of the Rural Electrification Act to determine eligibility.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these data to calculate and set fair market rents to help low-income households obtain better rental housing and reduce the share of their income going to rent costs.
- Building contractors, materials suppliers, and household goods manufacturers use these data to develop marketing strategies.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

4 How many acres is this house or mobile home on?

☐ Less than 1 acre → SKIP to question 6

☐ 1 to 9.9 acres

☐ 10 or more acres

5 IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property?

☐ None

☐ \$1 to \$999

☐ \$1,000 to \$2,499

☐ \$2,500 to \$4,999

☐ \$5,000 to \$9,999

☐ \$10,000 or more

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES DATA

- Rural Electrification Act
- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I—State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130
- Low Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES QUESTIONS

- The questions on acreage and agricultural sales (formerly called “farm residence”) have been asked since 1970.
- The questions also were asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

These questions are asked to classify the population and housing inventory by farm and nonfarm residence. The information on acreage is structured to exclude any unit located on less than one acre. For units on one or more acres *and* that are a one-family house or mobile home, the respondent is asked to report the amount of sales of agricultural products. The amount of sales will determine if the property is considered a farm. It is important to note that the data are summarized in terms of people living on farms or housing units on farms, not the number of farms.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau’s Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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